

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SPECIES OF FULVETTA FROM YUNNAN,
CHINA

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Among the birds recently brought back by Doctor Joseph F. Rock, from exploring the high mountains of Yunnan and Szechwan under the auspices of the National Geographic Society, is an apparently unnamed specie of *Fulvetta*, a genus of small timaline birds inhabiting the high mountains of India and China. It may be known from the following description:

Fulvetta insperata, sp. nov.

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 314,150, Nda-much'o, 14,000 feet, northwest Yunnan, October, 1929. Collected by Joseph F. Rock (original No. 1573).

Similar to *Fulvetta ruficapilla sordidior*, but pileum deep brownish drab, instead of light mars brown; no whitish around the eye; inner primaries and outer secondaries edged externally basally with buckthorn brown instead of sudan brown; rump and the base of the rectrices a much lighter brown; throat more heavily streaked with dusky; bill wholly black, instead of the base being lighter; feet considerably heavier.

Description.—Pileum deep brownish drab, bordered on each side above the superciliary line and commencing just over the eye, by a black line extending on to the upper back; the superciliary, lores, ear-coverts, and cheeks, light drab; throat pale drab-gray with rather broad dusky streaks; chest and breast, light drab; belly a little lighter than the breast; flanks and under tail-coverts, buckthorn brown; back, hair-brown; lower back scapulars and rump, buckthorn brown; tail, dark mouse gray, the outer feathers fringed externally basally with the color of the rump; wing-coverts deep mouse gray edged outwardly with the color of the rump; primaries and secondaries deep mouse gray, the four outer primaries edged outwardly with light olive-gray, the inner primaries, commencing with the seventh, and the secondaries edged externally basally with buckthorn brown; under wing-coverts and inner margins of the remiges basally, white; bill (in the

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skin) dull black; feet, blackish brown. Wing, 61; tail, 58; culmen, 9.5; tarsus, 24; middle-toe, 13 mm.

Remarks.—The U. S. National Museum contains eight specimens of *F. r. sordidior* and all of the specimens, that are unstained around the head, have a narrow white line above the eye and below it, but not meeting behind. *Fulvetta insperata* does not show a trace of an eye-ring. In *F. r. sordidior* the black line bordering the pileum on each side extends further forwards. Dr. Rock's men took both *F. r. sordidior* and the present bird at the same locality, otherwise I should have considered them only forms of the same species. This can hardly be *Fulvetta manipurensis* Grant from Manipur, though judging from the inadequate description of the original describer and that of Stuart Baker (*Fauna Br. Ind.*, Birds, ed. 2, vol. I, 1922, p. 292) it is apparently closely related. The latter compares it with *F. vinipecta*, however, while *F. insperata* resembles *F. ruficapilla* more closely. Only the type was secured.